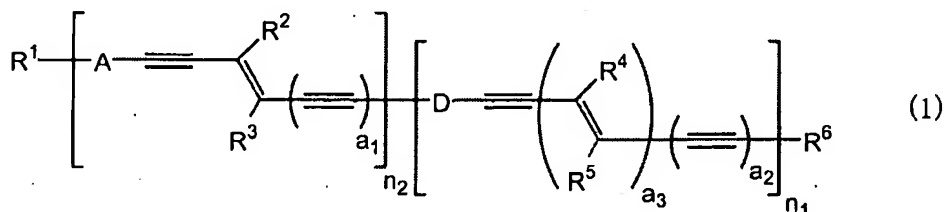


### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

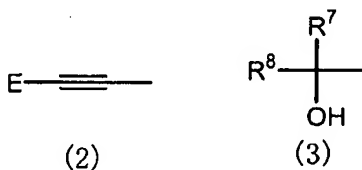
1. (Currently Amended) A  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound, characterized by being represented by the formula (1)

[Chemical Formula 1]



{wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or chlorine atom, or a group represented by the following formula (2) or a group represented by the following formula (3)}

[Chemical Formula 2]



[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom),

$R^7$  and  $R^8$  independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms],

$R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

$R^6$  represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom), a group represented by the afore-indicated formula (2) or a group represented by the afore-indicated formula (3),

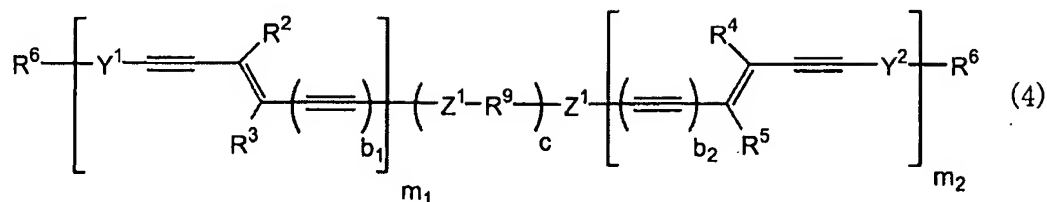
A and D independently represent a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a phenanthrene group, a phenarene ring, a fluorene ring, a triphenylene ring, a pyrene ring, a perylene ring, a ~~pyridine ring~~, a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, a ~~thiophene ring~~, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom),

$a_1$ ,  $a_2$ , and  $a_3$  are independently 0 or 1, and

$n_1$  and  $n_2$  are independently an integer of 1 to 5}.

2. (Currently amended) A  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound, characterized by being represented by the formula (4)

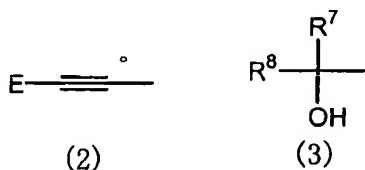
[Chemical Formula 3]



[wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

$R^6$  represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom), a group represented by the formula (2) or a group represented by the formula (3),

[Chemical Formula 4]



[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a

dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom),

$R^7$  and  $R^8$  independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms],

$Z^1$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  independently represent ~~a benzene ring~~, a paraphenylene group, a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a phenanthrene group, a phenarene ring, a fluorene ring, a triphenylene ring, a pyrene ring, a perylene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, a thiophene ring, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings and group may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom),  $R^9$  represents a single bond, -O-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O<sub>2</sub>)-, -C(O)O-, -OC(O)-, -C(S)O-, -OC(S)-, -C(O)NH-, -NHC(O)-, -C(S)NH-, -NHC(S)-, -NH- or a divalent saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group that has 1 to 8 carbon atoms and may be branched,

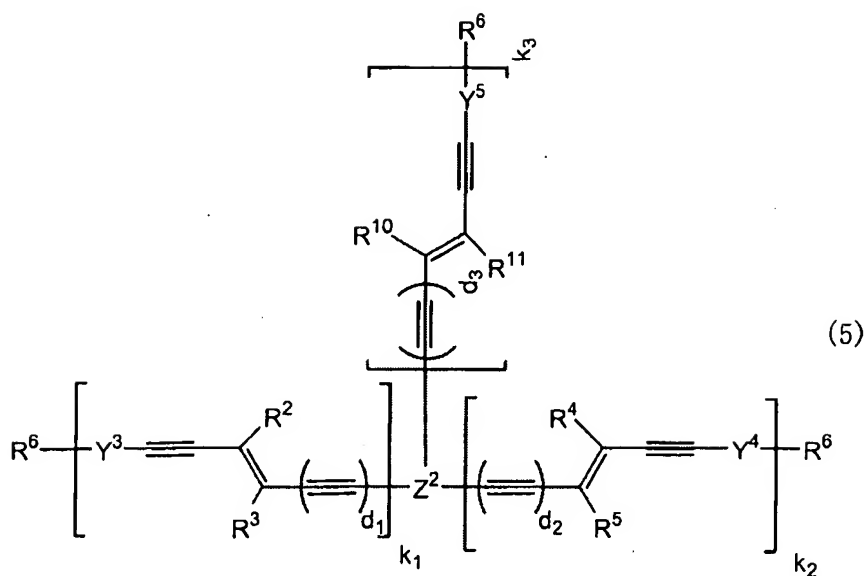
$b_1$  and  $b_2$  are independently 0 or 1,

$c$  is an integer of 0 to 3, and

$m_1$  and  $m_2$  are independently an integer of 1 to 5].

3. (Previously Presented) A  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound, characterized by being represented by the formula (5)

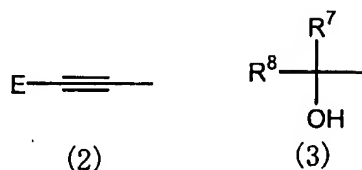
[Chemical Formula 5]



{wherein  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

$R^6$  represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom), a group represented by the formula (2) or a group represented by the formula (3),

[Chemical Formula 6]



[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine or chlorine atom),

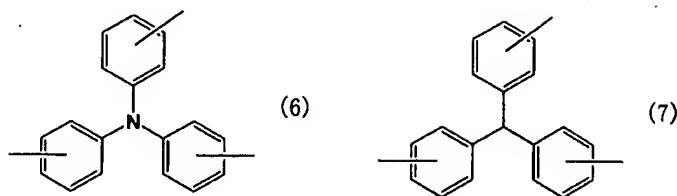
R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms],

R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

Y<sup>3</sup> to Y<sup>5</sup> independently represent a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a phenanthrene group, a phenarene ring, a fluorene ring, a triphenylene ring, a pyrene ring, a perylene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, a thiophene ring, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom),

Z<sup>2</sup> represents a trivalent aryl group, a group represented by the following formula (6) or a group represented by the following formula (7)

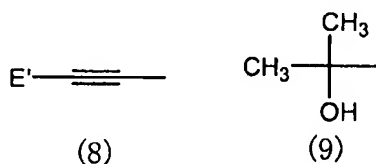
[Chemical Formula 7]



$d_1$  to  $d_3$  are independently 0 or 1, and  
 $k_1$  to  $k_3$  are independently an integer of 1 to 5}.

4. (Original) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that said  $R^1$  is a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, a methoxy group, a propoxy group, a methyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a group represented by the following formula (8) or a group represented by the following formula (9)

[Chemical Formula 8]

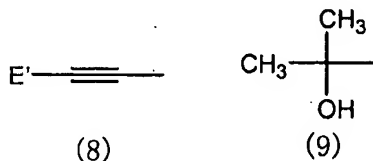


[wherein  $E'$  represents a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group, a tri-*i*-propylsilyl group, a phenyl group, a pyridyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, pyridyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, a methoxy group, an *n*-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group)].

5. (Original) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ , and  $R^5$  independently represent a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, an ethyl group or an *n*-propyl group.

6. (Previously Presented) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that said  $R^6$  is a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group, a tri-*i*-propylsilyl group, a phenyl group, a pyridyl group, a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, pyridyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, a methoxy group, an *n*-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group), a group represented by the following formula (8) or a group represented by the following formula (9),

[Chemical Formula 9]



[wherein  $E'$  represents a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group, a tri-*i*-propylsilyl group, a phenyl group, a pyridyl group, a thienyl group (provided that the phenyl group, pyridyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, a methoxy group, an *n*-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group)].

7. (Currently Amended) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that said A and D independently represent ~~a pyridine ring~~, a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, ~~a thiophene ring~~, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-*b*]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-*b*]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-*b*]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom).

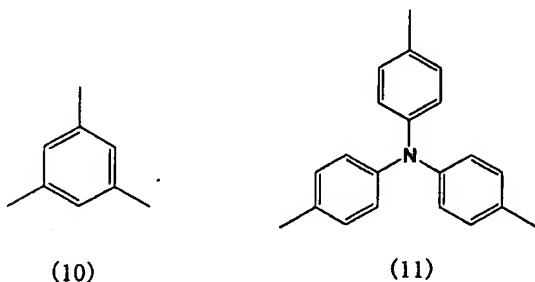


8. (Currently Amended) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 7, characterized in that said A and D independently represent ~~a pyridine ring~~, a pyridazine ring, ~~a thiophene ring~~, a benzothiadiazole ring or a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a cyano group, a methoxy group, an n-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group).

9. (Previously Presented) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 2, characterized in that said  $Z^1$ ,  $Y^1$ , and  $Y^2$  independently represent a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyridazine ring, a thiophene ring, a pyrrole ring, a benzothiadiazole ring or a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a cyano group, a methoxy group, an n-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group), and  $R^9$  represents a single bond or -O-,  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  are both 1, and  $c$  is 0 or 1.

10. (Previously Presented) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound according to Claim 3, characterized in that said  $Y^3$  to  $Y^5$  independently represent a phenylene ring, a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyridazine ring, a thiophene ring, a pyrrole ring, a benzothiadiazole ring or a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a cyano group, a methoxy group, an n-propoxy group, a methyl group or a trifluoromethyl group),  $Z^2$  is a group represented by the following formula (10) or a group represented by the following formula (11), and  $d_1$  to  $d_3$  are all 1.

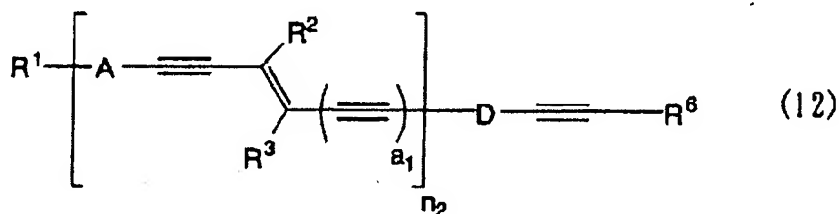
[Chemical Formula 10]



11. (Previously Presented) An organic electroluminescent device of a type which comprises an anode and a cathode, and an organic thin film layer interposed therebetween, characterized in that said organic thin film layer is a layer constituted to contain the  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound defined in Claim 1.

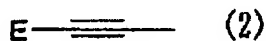
12. (New) A  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound, characterized by being represented by the formula (12)

[Chemical Formula 11]



{wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 atoms, a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or chlorine atom, or a group represented by the following formula (2)}

[Chemical Formula 12]



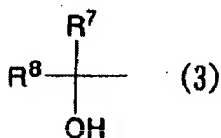
[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl

group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 atoms, a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or chlorine atom)],

$R^2$  and  $R^3$  independently represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms,

$R^6$  represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a phenyl group, a naphthyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyrazinyl group, a furanyl group, a pyrrolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, an imidazolyl group or a thienyl group (provided that said phenyl group, naphthyl group, pyridyl group, pyrimidinyl group, pyridazinyl group, pyrazinyl group, furanyl group, pyrrolyl group, pyrazolyl group, imidazolyl group or thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 atoms, a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or chlorine atom), or a group represented by the following formula (3),

[Chemical Formula 13]



(wherein  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbons atoms),

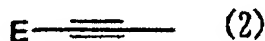
A and D independently represent a pyridine ring or a thiophene ring (provided that these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom),

$a_1$  is independently 0 or 1, and

$n_2$  is independently an integer or 1 to 5}.

13. (New) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound of claim 12, wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a group represented by the following formula (2)

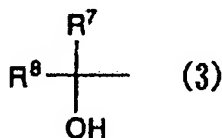
[Chemical Formula 14]



[wherein E represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, a thienyl group (provided that said thienyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group)],

$R^6$  represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted silyl group, (provided that said pyridyl group may be optionally substituted with a cyano group or an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms), or a group represented by the following formula (3),

[Chemical Formula 13]



(wherein  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  represent an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms).

14. (New) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound of claim 13, wherein  $R^7$  and  $R^8$  represent a methyl group.

15. (New) The  $\pi$ -conjugated aromatic ring-containing compound of claim 13, wherein  $Z^1$ ,  $Y^1$  and  $Y^2$  independently represent a naphthalene ring, an anthracene ring, a phenanthrene group, a phenarene ring, a fluorene ring, a triphenylene ring, a pyrene ring, a perylene ring, a pyridine ring, a pyrimidine ring, a pyridazine ring, a pyrazine ring, a furan ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an imidazole ring, a thiophene ring, a benzothiadiazole ring, a thieno[3,4-b]pyrazine ring, a furo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring or a 6H-pyrrolo[3,4-b]pyrazine ring (provided that

these rings may be optionally substituted with a phenyl group, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a dimethylamino group, a diphenylamino group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a halogenated alkyl group that has 1 to 10 carbon atoms and may be optionally substituted with a fluorine atom or a chlorine atom).